

teams from 15 states in order to win their division's World Series. Needless to say, I am very proud of every member of the roster, all of whom can rightfully call themselves champions.

Of course, they were only able to accomplish this feat through years of hard work and dedication, not to mention teamwork. During their time together, not only did these kids learn how to win at the game of baseball, but also how to win at the game of life. For, whether it be on the baseball fields of Tulsa, Oklahoma or here in the House of Representatives, magical things can happen when people put aside their differences and work together for a common cause. In fact, as I stand here today, I wonder if some of the members of this great body couldn't learn a thing or two from these kids about teamwork.

As we all know, getting a group of 14 year olds to come together as a team does not happen just by chance, there has to be a guiding force. Thus, I would also like to acknowledge the coaches and parents of the Oklahoma Expos for spending so much time with these boys in order to help mold them into champions on the field and off. Your unquestioned dedication to giving back to the community and raising tomorrow's leaders is commendable.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTEN ADELMAN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Kristen Adelman who was a member of the Tour of Hope bike ride across America. On Oct. 1, 2004, Kristen joined six-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong in a relay bike ride from Los Angeles, CA to Washington, D.C. to help inform the public about the importance of cancer clinical trials.

Kristen is a cancer survivor who has survived three recurrences of an aggressive form of lymphoma. In remission for more than 18 months, Kristen was selected to join 20 other cyclists, including Lance Armstrong, in the eight-day, life-affirming journey across America. Other participants included cancer survivors, physicians, nurses, researchers and advocates who all share one mission—to find a cure for cancer.

Kristen is from Elkridge, MD where she teaches algebra and physical education at the St. Augustine School. She was an active triathlete and marathon runner before her diagnoses of cancer. In fact, while going through treatment, she continued to run and ride her bike.

To prepare for the Tour of Hope, Kristen went through a rigorous 16-week training program. She undertook this ride because she wanted to draw attention to the importance of cancer research. Kristen understands that the only way to find a cure for cancer is through clinical trials, which will help identify safe and effective drugs.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in offering our gratitude and appreciation to Kristen for her generosity of spirit and fortitude. It is precisely this type of commitment that will allow us to conquer cancer.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment, which would mark the first time in our Nation's history that the Constitution would be amended to restrict the civil rights of a specific group, rather than to expand rights.

I do not support changing the definition of marriage, and in fact, I voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act. But like former Republican Congressman Bob Barr, who authored that bill, I oppose this Constitutional amendment. I believe that each state should have the ability to decide family matters for themselves, rather than having the federal government dictate what they must do.

I strongly support recognizing civil unions to give partners the right to access of health benefits, visiting rights at hospitals, pensions, and other benefits granted to committed married partners. These are rights that other Americans are able to take for granted, and frankly it's difficult to believe that in the 21st Century we need to fight to guarantee those rights. But this amendment would prevent civil unions and domestic partner benefits, again, forbidding states and the District of Columbia to decide for themselves whether they want to allow those benefits.

It is wrong to casually amend our Constitution simply to score a political point. This vicious debate is below the dignity of the House. I hope my colleagues will reject the politics of hate and intolerance, and oppose this amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHILLIPS BETH ISRAEL SCHOOL OF NURSING ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing on the occasion of the centennial anniversary that it celebrates on October 9th and 10th, 2004.

For one hundred years, the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing has been one of the leading centers of professional nursing education in the United States. As with so many institutions in New York City, its roots first grew in Lower Manhattan, where it was founded as an adjunct to its namesake, Beth Israel Medical Center, the outstanding health care institution with which it has been so closely connected throughout its history.

Created shortly after the establishment of the Beth Israel Hospital, the School of Nursing was first officially chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 1904. Thus began its progression toward excellence, a standard that the School quickly met and proudly upholds to this day.

Since its inception as a degree-granting institution, the Phillips Beth Israel School of

Nursing has undergone significant changes reflective of the evolving nature of health care delivery over the course of the last century. During World War II, the Beth Israel Training School for Nurses, as it was then called, participated in the U.S. Cadet Nursing Program under the terms of the Bolton Act, which provided subsidies to train nursing students for combat duty. As that great conflict was ending, Seymour J. Phillips, a Beth Israel trustee, Chairman of the Phillips Van Heusen Company, and a leading philanthropist of the day, became Chairman of the School, which was renamed in his honor four decades later. In 1978, the School of Nursing received approval to grant the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Nursing. A major academic affiliation was established in 1983 with Pace University offering the liberal arts component of the curriculum. The Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing also has entered into articulation agreements with Pace and New York University to offer its students the opportunity to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

In 1985, the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing received full accreditation from the National League for Nursing, and was re-accredited in 2002 for a full eight years. Under the able leadership of its current Dean, Janet Mackin, RN, EdD, the School continues to advance its mission with a view to its long term future, and is preparing to move into new facilities located at 6th Avenue and 27th Street in Manhattan. Its current curriculum prepares graduates to practice nursing in the realities of today's health care system, but throughout its century-old tradition of excellence, it has maintained a constant goal: educating nurses to practice with a philosophy of caring and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a century of achievement by a proud New York institution, the Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing.

IN HONOR OF DR. FRANCISCO OSVALDO CORTINA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Francisco Osvaldo Cortina for his lifelong dedication to practicing medicine and serving others. Dr. Cortina was honored by the Association of Villalareños at their annual banquet on October 3, 2004, in Union City, New Jersey.

As a respected physician, Dr. Cortina has devoted more than 32 years to helping people. He began his medical career in his hometown of Santa Clara, Cuba, after graduating from the University of Havana. After immigrating to the United States in 1967, he opened a practice in Petersburg, VA, and later relocated to New Jersey. Dr. Cortina completed his general practice residency at St. Mary's Hospital in Hoboken, where he became the chief resident and graduated in 1972. He then opened practices in Hoboken and Union City.

Dr. Cortina is the son of Spanish immigrants and is married to his high school sweetheart, Hortensia. They have two sons who have proudly carried on the medical tradition and are also physicians.